



108

Greatest Of All Times

GLOBALLY SELECTED  
PERSONALITIES

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Compiled by:

Prof Dr S Ramalingam

70/69 BC <::><::><::> 30 BC



“I will not  
be led in a  
triumph”

Queen Cleopatra - [www.quoteikon.com](http://www.quoteikon.com)



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70/69 BC



10 August 30 BC

# TIMELINE

[https://www.worldhistory.org/timeline/Cleopatra\\_VII/](https://www.worldhistory.org/timeline/Cleopatra_VII/)

Cleopatra was a member of the Macedonian Greek dynasty who became Queen of Egypt. She was an educated, smart woman who spoke many languages. She is remembered as a very good leader for over 30 years, as well as for her romances with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony.

- c. 69 BCE - 12 Aug 30 BCE

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Life of Cleopatra VII of Egypt.

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- c. 51 BCE - c. 30 BCE

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300 Celts serve as elite bodyguards for Cleopatra VII during her reign.

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- 51 BCE
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Death of Cleopatra's father, Ptolemy XII Auletes.

- 51 BCE

Cleopatra accepts her brother Ptolemy XIII as co-ruler.

- 49 BCE

Sole rule of Ptolemy XIII, recognized by both Gaius Julius Caesar, the Roman dictator, and his opponent, Pompey the Great.

- 48 BCE

Cleopatra tries to return, but her army is defeated near Pelusium.

- 48 BCE

Caesar defeats Pompey (Battle of Pharsalus); Pompey flees to Egypt and is killed by courtiers of Ptolemy XIII.

- 48 BCE

Caesar arrives in Egypt and orders Ptolemy XIII and Cleopatra VII to disband their armies, but instead, war breaks out.

- 47 BCE

Cleopatra VII is sole ruler of Egypt; she presents herself as the goddess Isis.

- Jan 47 BCE

Ptolemy XIII drowns in the Nile fleeing Caesar.

- 23 Jun 47 BCE

Birth of Cleopatra's son, named Caesarion; Caesar is said to be the father.

- 46 BCE

Ptolemy XIV is recognized as Cleopatra's co-ruler again; the two are in Rome.

- 15 Mar 44 BCE

Julius Caesar is killed; Cleopatra and Ptolemy XIV return to Egypt, where Ptolemy is soon killed and Caesarion recognized as king; first of a series of bad harvests.

- 43 BCE

Cleopatra gains control of Cyprus; she supports the faction of Caesar, led by the Second Triumvirate (Marc Antony, Octavian, Lepidus), in its war against the assassins, led by Brutus and Cassius.

- 41 BCE

Cleopatra and Mark Antony meet at Tarsus.

- 41 BCE - 31 BCE

Mark Antony of Rome allied with Cleopatra VII of Egypt.

- 41 BCE



Cleopatra meets Mark Antony in Tarsus. The Roman needs the Egyptian queen in his war against the Parthian Empire, and returns the rule of old Ptolemaic territories to her.

- 38 BCE

Parts of Cilicia and Chalcis are given to Cleopatra; later, she is allowed to govern, as vassal, parts of Phoenicia, Judaea (cordial relations with king Herod), Cyrenaica, and Crete.

- 36 BCE

Mark Antony gives Crete as a gift to Cleopatra.

- 34 BCE

The Donations of Alexandria, an elaborate coronation ceremony in which Caesarion and Alexander Helios were named King of Kings and their mother Cleopatra VII was named Queen of Kings, took place in the Egyptian capital.

- 31 BCE

Mark Antony and Cleopatra move to Greece, where they are isolated by Octavian's admiral Agrippa; although they are able to win a tactical victory and break out of their isolated position at Actium, the campaign is a distaster and Octavian is able to achieve control of the east.

- 31 BCE

Cleopatra flees to Alexandria and opens negotiations with Octavian; her purpose is to save her children and keep the Ptolemaic kingdom intact.

- 2 Sep 31 BCE

The Battle of Actium. Octavian defeats Mark Antony and Cleopatra VII.

- 1 Aug 30 BCE

After Octavian has declined to negotiate, Cleopatra reportedly commits suicide; Mark Antony stabs himself, only later finding Cleopatra still lives, and dies.

Kindly also visit the Web Link:

[https://softschools.com/timelines/cleopatra\\_timeline/62/](https://softschools.com/timelines/cleopatra_timeline/62/)

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## Videos

[Documentaries, Biographies, Discussions,  
Portrayals, Historical Places, Ancient Monuments]

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### [01] CLEOPATRA: [1:26:57]

#### The Story of the Queen of Egypt (FULL DOCUMENTARY)

Discover the true Cleopatra: A 90-minute documentary With Zahi Hawass, Kathleen Martinez and more...A Documentary by Curtis Ryan Woodside, Co-Produced by Sofia Aziz. Discover the REAL Cleopatra...A figure whose name and legacy is burned into the minds of billions. Coming from a tenacious Greek Macedonian family, she had to fight and even kill for her place on the throne, a noble attempt to save a failing Egypt. She left her mark during the final days of ancient egypt. Her story has been warped so much throughout history, from biast opinions to praise, yet who was she really? Everyone thinks they know her, everyone has a different opinion, but most of those are modern, based on films and misinformed play-writes. How much do we really know about the true... Cleopatra.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdGThahx5sE>

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### [02] The Real Cleopatra | Queen of Egypt [46:45]

The Real Cleopatra (2013)

Director: Michael Löseke, Christian Twente

Writers: Christian Feyerabend, Susanne Utzt, Uwe Kersken

Stars: Pegah Ferydoni, Holger Gotha, Timur Isik

Genre: Documentary, Biography, Drama

Country: Germany

Language: English

Release Date: November 30, 2013 (Germany)

**Synopsis:** She commanded armies and built warships. She was ruthless with rivals and quick to eliminate traitors. She spoke at least nine languages, received diplomats and negotiated with kings. But the last woman to rule Egypt is a legend today because of her powers of seduction. Her story has provided material for countless novels and films, and the myth of Cleopatra lives on, her appearance fused with that of Elizabeth Taylor in the epic 1963 film. The real Cleopatra may well not have been so graceful; her attraction was more a matter of intelligence and strength of will. And she succeeded in winning over the most powerful Romans of her day. Her affair with Julius Caesar began in 48 BC, and this relationship – which resulted in a son – preserved Egypt from being utterly subsumed by the Roman Empire. In June 46 BC Cleopatra followed her lover to Rome, which in those days was little more than a village in comparison with Alexandria. Cleopatra put on a magnificent show during her stay in Rome, inviting the fashionable elite to admire the opulence of her home and the extravagances of her style. In a matter of months, she became a trend-setter in Roman society. However, she was still envied and treated with suspicion: she lived an independent life, taking whatever she wanted. The fact that the seductress was also a cool, calculating politician who preserved the independence of her country escaped the notice of many contemporaries. In March 44 BC Cleopatra watched as Julius Caesar was murdered outside the Senate by his political opponents. This left her with no protector, and thus she was in extreme danger. She returned to Alexandria, the dream of the Roman-Egyptian dynasty in tatters. The wrangling over Caesar's successor saw Mark Anthony appointed to rule the east of the Roman Empire, and just like Caesar, he succumbed to Cleopatra's charms. Their affair – which resulted in three children – has provided material for dramatists ever since. They were united by passion and political ambition. With Cleopatra's support, Mark Anthony extended his position of power in the East, while she returned to the arena of international politics. But danger was threatening from the Roman Empire: Caesar's adopted son Octavian (later Caesar Augustus) dismissed Cleopatra scornfully as the "whore from the Nile", and open warfare resulted, culminating in the Battle of Actium in 31 BC. Although Mark Antony and Cleopatra saved the majority of their forces, Octavian and his supporters were able to claim victory, and over the months to follow the majority of Mark Antony's troops deserted him. Faced with no alternative, he committed suicide, and Cleopatra also put an end to her life – although probably by taking poison rather than using an asp; the snake is more the stuff of legends. When Cleopatra's passionate, melodramatic life came to an end at the age of 39, it also marked the demise of an empire which had lasted for thousands of years.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VfOMjQsRxg>

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### **[03] Netflix's Cleopatra is so Much Worse Than You Think**

[49:07]

Queen Cleopatra is by far the worst documentary I have ever seen; an all-out assault on Egyptian, Roman and Greek history. 'Cleopatra was black' is just one of the hundreds of lies and historical distortions this show asserts as truth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sj-iCoPQN78>

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### **[04] Cleopatra: Queen of the Nile [45:02]**

Born in the romantic splendour of Ptolemaic Egypt, not far from the Library of Alexandria, Cleopatra was destined for greatness. She ascended to the throne at 18 and very quickly asserted her authority across Egypt as her extraordinary mind and legendary charisma captivated all. To some she was even a goddess, a living embodiment of the Egyptian goddess

Isis. Such was her magnetism that not even the most powerful men of the age were able to resist her. Listen as William and Anita are joined by Stacy Schiff to discuss Cleopatra, her rise to power, and her relationship with the ruler of Rome, Julius Caesar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eS4a-QPa5HY>

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### **[05] The Secrets Behind Cleopatra's Rise to Power [52:19]**

Three leading Egyptologists explore how Cleopatra became one of the most influential and powerful women of the ancient world.

We trace how Cleopatra's learning and intelligence enabled her to gain control of her own Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt; skilfully and ruthlessly overcoming her own family and manipulating Egyptian politics and religion to her own advantage.

We discover the influence that the magnificent city of Alexandria exerted over the eastern Mediterranean and how Rome's growing power impinged on Egypt. Cleopatra played a difficult and skilful game negotiating relations with Rome, engaging both diplomatically and personally first with Julius Caesar and then Marcus Antonius (Mark Antony). Our experts consider how Cleopatra's remarkable personality enabled her to play such a key role in the first century BCE.

The film uses imagery from the worlds of art and motion pictures, as well as key Egyptian artefacts and locations, to investigate the representation and story of this remarkable and much misunderstood leader - unpicking the fact from the myth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zw84WIG8ssI>

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### **[06] Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt by Thomas May [1:53:20]**

#### **First Look, part 1 (Beyond Shakespeare Exploring Session)**

A First Look read through and discussion of Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt by Thomas May, performed in 1626. This session covers Act 1 to 3.2

With Eric Karoulla as Titius, Glaucus, Hipparchus; Alan Scott as Plancus, Charmio, Domitius, Gallus; Sarah Blake as Cleopatra, Seleucus, Caesar; Lynn Freitas as Mardio, Antonius, Lucilius, Pinnarius, Agrippa; Aliki Chapple as Canidius; Gregory Musson as Euphronius, Achoreus, Sossius, Proculeius, Servant, Epaphroditus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-AIVM7j28A>

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### **[07] Egypt's Last Queen [43:58]**

#### **Lost Treasures of Egypt | Full Episode**

Just outside Alexandria, deep beneath a temple lies the tomb of Egypt's last queen, Cleopatra. Discover exciting secrets about Africa's ancient gem on Lost Treasures of Egypt, on National Geographic.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s\\_Ja860xDd4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_Ja860xDd4)

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[08] Is Africa \*Black? [1:01:20]

(Netflix Queen Cleopatra Reaction) /Podcast

Netflix's new Queen Cleopatra documentary has sparked controversy over the casting of the role of Cleopatra. They have cast a \*black actor, Adele James for the role and many people, Egyptians especially are upset about this calling it cultural appropriation, blackwashing and historical inaccuracy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xd2hZA2B2ao>

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[09] Cleopatra, Lich Queen of the Nile [1:58:43]

October Civ VI Challenge

We're back with the twelfth CIV VI monthly Challenge! This time we are playing as Cleopatra of Egypt, on Emperor Difficulty. We find ourselves in the midst of a zombie invasion, or mighty leader cleopatra has granted us the power to turn the units to our side using her Lich Powers. We will have to play well if we want to claim victory! Can I forge a zombie civilization to stand the test of time?

Don't miss out – tune in and witness the rise of a thriving empire!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXg5UgzNrDE>

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[10] Adele James: Netflix's 'Queen Cleopatra' [25:45]

BBC's 'Casualty' and acting advice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJjIPNsNVVo>

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[11] Cleopatra's Lost Tomb (Full Episode) [44:24]

Lost Treasures of Egypt

Archaeologists hunt for the lost tomb of Cleopatra. One team dives the sunken city of Alexandria and an explorer unearths a secret underground tunnel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G69n11o3z8>

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[12] Cleopatra: [26:37]

The Story of the Queen of Egypt (Complete)

Great Figures of History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1E0toYKhrI>

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[13] 2024 Queen of the Nile [2:26:52]

**Cleopatra's Journey Through Love, Betrayal, and History Action Movie**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQkJbVWOIz4>

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[14] Cleopatra - Last queen of ancient Egypt [1:56:08]

**The Story of the Queen of Egypt (Complete) Documentary**

Welcome to the channel! Here, we delve deep into the fascinating world of history, uncovering untold stories, legendary figures, and pivotal moments that shaped our world. Join us on an exciting journey through time as we explore ancient civilizations, iconic leaders, and the legacies they left behind. Stay tuned! BM Research History Business history mythology cleopatra Julio Caesar Caesar Marc Anthony Egypt ancient Egypt story of cleopatra history of Egypt see u in history see you in history queen of Egypt.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3GGXogG214>

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[15] "The Legacy of Cleopatra VII Philopator [2:03:24]

**Κλεοπάτρα Φιλοπάτωρ Queen of the Ptolemaic Kingdom" Panel**

Cleopatra VII, the last active ruler of the ancient Egyptian civilization, led a remarkable life filled with accomplishments that have left an indelible mark on history. Born in 69 BCE, Cleopatra ascended to the throne at the age of 18, and her reign would be remembered as one of the most fascinating periods in Egypt's history. Cleopatra was a gifted linguist, fluent in multiple languages (including Egyptian, Ethiopian, Hebrew, Arabic, Median, Parthian, Latin, and her native Koine Greek), which enabled her to communicate with various diplomats and conquerors. Cleopatra was exceptionally well-educated and skilled in chemistry, economics, mercantile strategy, military theory, and law. She was also well versed in mathematics, philosophy and debate, and was known for her formidable strategic thinking and geopolitical acumen. Cleopatra understood the value of forging alliances, and she engaged in diplomatic relationships with Rome, particularly with two of its most powerful leaders, Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. Her relationship with Julius Caesar began in 48 BCE when she sought his support against her brother in a civil war for control of Egypt. Cleopatra's intelligence and charm captivated Caesar, and their liaison bore fruit when she gave birth to their son, Caesarion. Though their relationship was cut short by Caesar's assassination, Cleopatra's influence remained significant in Rome. Following Caesar's death, Cleopatra aligned herself with and had a romantic relationship with Mark Antony, one of Caesar's allies. Together they formed a formidable force against their political rivals. Cleopatra's charisma and intellect were instrumental in solidifying their partnership, and she became an influential figure within the Roman Empire. However, their alliance faced a tragic end during the Battle of Actium in 31 BCE, where Antony and Cleopatra suffered a devastating defeat against Octavian, later known as Emperor Augustus. Realizing the inevitable, Cleopatra took her own life, a poignant end to a captivating and eventful life. Cleopatra's accomplishments extended beyond her personal relationships. She sought to enhance the prosperity and grandeur of Egypt. She invested in



infrastructure projects, encouraged the development of the arts and sciences, and championed the cultural heritage of her kingdom. Throughout history, Cleopatra's legend has been embellished with tales of her seductive beauty and allure. Yet, her true power lay in her intelligence, diplomacy, and strategic thinking. Cleopatra's reign as a queen and her relationships with influential leaders continue to intrigue and inspire scholars and storytellers to this day. Join us for a discussion on the legacy of one of the most fascinating women in history on the anniversary of her passing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9oDVNd4bWA>

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## [16] The Dark Side of Cleopatra: Queen of Egypt [58:30]

### Portrait of A Killer | Real Royalty

In one of the world's most exciting finds, archaeologists believe they have discovered the skeleton of her sister, murdered by Cleopatra and Mark Antony.

From Egypt to Turkey, Neil Oliver investigates the story of a ruthless queen who would kill her own siblings for power. This is the portrait of a killer.

From Elizabeth II to Cleopatra, Real Royalty peels back the curtain to give a glimpse into the lives of some of the most influential families in the world, with new full-length documentaries posted every week covering the monarchies of today and all throughout history.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LS6qr9pQD-4>

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# Cleopatra

(1963 film)

## Cleopatra



Theatrical release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<a href="#">Joseph L. Mankiewicz</a>
<b>Screenplay by</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Joseph L. Mankiewicz</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Ranald MacDougall</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sidney Buchman</a></li> </ul>
<b>Based on</b>	<i>The Life and Times of Cleopatra</i> by Carlo Maria Franzero Histories by <a href="#">Plutarch</a> , <a href="#">Suetonius</a> , and <a href="#">Appian</a>
<b>Produced by</b>	<a href="#">Walter Wanger</a>
<b>Starring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Elizabeth Taylor</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Richard Burton</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Rex Harrison</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Pamela Brown</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">George Cole</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Hume Cronyn</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Cesare Danova</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Kenneth Haigh</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Roddy McDowall</a></li> </ul>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<a href="#">Leon Shamroy</a>
<b>Edited by</b>	<a href="#">Dorothy Spencer</a>
<b>Music by</b>	<a href="#">Alex North</a>
<b>Distributed by</b>	<a href="#">Twentieth Century-Fox</a>
<b>Release date</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 12, 1963</li> </ul>
<b>Running time</b>	251 minutes
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Budget</b>	\$31.1 million
<b>Box office</b>	\$57.8 million (US and Canada) \$40.3 million (worldwide <a href="#">theatrical rental</a> )

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleopatra\\_\(1963\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleopatra_(1963_film))

***Cleopatra*** is a 1963 American [epic historical drama film](#) directed by [Joseph L. Mankiewicz](#), with a screenplay adapted by Mankiewicz, [Ranald MacDougall](#) and [Sidney Buchman](#) from the 1957 book *The Life and Times of Cleopatra* by Carlo Maria Franzero, and from histories by [Plutarch](#), [Suetonius](#), and [Appian](#). The film stars [Elizabeth Taylor](#) in the eponymous role, along with [Richard Burton](#), [Rex Harrison](#), [Roddy McDowall](#) and [Martin Landau](#). It chronicles the struggles of the young queen [Cleopatra VII of Egypt](#) to resist the imperial ambitions of [Rome](#).

[Walter Wanger](#) had long contemplated producing a biographical film about Cleopatra. In 1958, his production company partnered with [Twentieth Century Fox](#) to produce the film. Following an extensive casting search, Elizabeth Taylor signed on to portray

the title role for a record-setting salary of \$1 million. [Rouben Mamoulian](#) was hired as director, and the script underwent numerous revisions from [Nigel Balchin](#), [Dale Wasserman](#), [Lawrence Durrell](#), and [Nunnally Johnson](#). [Principal photography](#) began at [Pinewood Studios](#) on September 28, 1960, but Taylor's health problems delayed further filming. Production was suspended in November after it had gone overbudget with only ten minutes of usable footage.

Mamoulian resigned as director and was replaced by Mankiewicz, who had directed Taylor in [Suddenly, Last Summer](#) (1959). Production was re-located to [Cinecittà](#), where filming resumed on September 25, 1961, without a finished [shooting script](#). During filming, a personal scandal made worldwide headlines when it was reported that co-stars Taylor and Richard Burton had an adulterous affair. Filming [wrapped](#) on July 28, 1962, and further reshoots were made from February to March 1963.

With the estimated production costs totaling \$31 million (not counting the \$5 million spent on the aborted British shoot), the film became the [most expensive film ever made](#) up to that point and nearly bankrupted the studio. The cost of distribution, print and advertising expenses added a further \$13 million to Fox's costs.

*Cleopatra* premiered at the Rivoli Theatre in New York City on June 12, 1963. It received a generally favorable response from American film critics, but an unfavorable one in Europe. It became the [highest-grossing film of 1963](#), earning box-office receipts of \$57.7 million in the United States and Canada, and one of the highest-grossing films of the decade at a worldwide level. However, the film initially lost money because of its exorbitant production and marketing costs totaling \$44 million (\$438 million in 2023).

It received nine nominations at the [36th Academy Awards](#), including for [Best Picture](#), and won four: [Best Art Direction \(Color\)](#), [Best Cinematography \(Color\)](#), [Best Visual Effects](#) and [Best Costume Design \(Color\)](#).

## Plot

After the [Battle of Pharsalus](#) in 48 BC, [Julius Caesar](#) goes to Egypt, under the pretext of being named the executor of the will of the father of the young [Pharaoh Ptolemy XIII](#) and his older sister and co-ruler, [Cleopatra](#). Ptolemy and Cleopatra are in the midst of their own civil war, and she has been driven out of the city of [Alexandria](#). Ptolemy rules alone under the care of his three "guardians": the chief eunuch Pothinus, his tutor Theodotus and General Achillas.

Cleopatra convinces Caesar to restore her throne from Ptolemy. Caesar, in effective control of the kingdom, sentences [Pothinus](#) to death for arranging an assassination attempt on Cleopatra, and banishes Ptolemy to the eastern desert, where he and his outnumbered army would face certain death against [Mithridates](#). Cleopatra is crowned queen of Egypt and begins to dream of ruling the world with Caesar, who in turn desires to become king of [Rome](#). They marry, and when their son [Caesarion](#) is born, Caesar accepts him publicly, which becomes the talk of Rome and the [Senate](#).

After being made [dictator](#) for life, Caesar sends for Cleopatra. She arrives in Rome in a lavish procession and wins the adulation of the Roman people. The Senate grows increasingly discontented amid rumors that Caesar wishes to be made king. On the [Ides of March](#) in 44 BC, a group of conspirators [assassinate Caesar](#) and flee the city, starting a rebellion. An [alliance](#) among [Octavian](#) (Caesar's adopted son), [Mark Antony](#) (Caesar's right-hand man and general) and [Marcus Aemilius Lepidus](#) puts down the rebellion and splits the republic. Cleopatra is angered after Caesar's will recognizes Octavian, rather than Caesarion, as his official heir and returns to Egypt.

While planning a campaign against [Parthia](#) in the east, Antony realizes that he needs money and supplies that only Egypt can sufficiently provide. After repeatedly refusing to leave Egypt, Cleopatra acquiesces and meets him on her royal barge in [Tarsus](#). The two begin a love affair. Octavian's removal of Lepidus forces Antony to return to Rome, where he marries Octavian's sister [Octavia](#) to prevent political conflict. This enrages Cleopatra. Antony and Cleopatra reconcile and marry, with Antony divorcing Octavia. Octavian, incensed, reads Antony's will to the Roman senate, revealing that Antony wishes to be buried in Egypt. Rome turns against Antony, and Octavian's call for war against Egypt receives a rapturous response. The war is decided at the naval [Battle of Actium](#) on September 2, 31 BC, where Octavian's fleet, under the command of [Agrippa](#), defeats the lead ships of the Antony-Egyptian fleet. Assuming Antony is dead, Cleopatra orders the Egyptian forces home. Antony follows her, leaving his fleet leaderless and soon defeated.

Months later, Cleopatra sends Caesarion under disguise out of Alexandria. She also convinces Antony to resume command of his troops and fight Octavian's advancing armies. However, Antony's soldiers abandon him during the night. [Rufio](#), the last man loyal to Antony, kills himself. Antony tries to goad Octavian into single combat, but is eventually forced to flee into the city. When Antony returns to the palace, [Apollodorus](#), who was in love with Cleopatra himself, tells him she is in her tomb as she had instructed, and lets Antony believe she is dead. Antony falls on his own sword. Apollodorus then confesses that he lied to Antony and assists him to the tomb where Cleopatra and two servants had taken refuge. Antony dies in Cleopatra's arms.

Octavian and his army march into Alexandria with Caesarion's dead body in a wagon. He discovers the dead body of Apollodorus, who had poisoned himself. He then receives word that Antony is dead and Cleopatra is holed up in a tomb. There he offers to allow her to rule Egypt as a Roman province if she accompanies him to Rome. Cleopatra, knowing that her son is dead, agrees to Octavian's terms, including a pledge on the life of her son not to harm herself. After Octavian departs, she orders for her servants to assist with her suicide. Discovering that she was going to kill herself, Octavian and his guards burst into Cleopatra's chamber to find her dead, dressed in gold, along with her servants and the [asp](#) that killed her.

## Cast





Taylor as Cleopatra

- [Elizabeth Taylor](#) as [Cleopatra VII](#)
- [Richard Burton](#) as [Mark Antony](#)
- [Rex Harrison](#) as [Julius Caesar](#)
- [Pamela Brown](#) as a High Priestess of Isis
- [George Cole](#) as [Flavius](#)
- [Hume Cronyn](#) as [Sosigenes](#)
- [Cesare Danova](#) as [Apollodorus](#)
- [Kenneth Haigh](#) as [Brutus](#)
- [Andrew Keir](#) as [Agrippa](#)
- [Martin Landau](#) as [Rufio](#)
- [Roddy McDowall](#) as [Octavian](#)
- [Robert Stephens](#) as Germanicus
- [Francesca Annis](#) as Eiras
- [Grégoire Aslan](#) as [Pothinus](#)
- [Martin Benson](#) as Ramese
- [Herbert Berghof](#) as [Theodotus of Chios](#)
- [John Cairney](#) as [Phoebus](#)
- [Jacqui Chan](#) as Lotus
- Isabelle Cooley as [Charmian](#)
- [John Doucette](#) as [Achillas](#)
- [Andrew Faulds](#) as [Canidius](#)
- [Michael Gwynn](#) as [Cimber](#)
- [Michael Hordern](#) as [Cicero](#)
- [John Hoyt](#) as [Cassius](#)
- [Marne Maitland](#) as [Euphranor](#)
- [Carroll O'Connor](#) as [Servilius Casca](#)
- [Richard O'Sullivan](#) as [Ptolemy XIII](#)
- [Gwen Watford](#) as [Calpurnia](#)
- [Douglas Wilmer](#) as [Decimus](#)
- [Marina Berti](#) as Cleopatra VII at [Tarsus](#)
- [John Karlsen](#) as a High Priest of Isis
- Loris Loddi as [Caesarion](#), age 4
  - Del Russell as Caesarion, age 7
  - Kenneth Nash as Caesarion, age 12
- [Jean Marsh](#) as [Octavia the Younger](#)
- Gin Mart as Marcellus
- [Furio Meniconi](#) as [Mithridates II of the Bosphorus](#)
- John Valva as Valvus
- [Finlay Currie](#) as Titus
- [Laurence Naismith](#) as Archesilius

### **Awards and nominations**

The film won four [Academy Awards](#) from nine nominations. It also earned Elizabeth Taylor a [Guinness World Record](#) for the most costume changes in a film (65). This record was eclipsed in 1968 by [Julie Andrews](#) with 125 costume changes in the film [Star!](#).



20th Century-Fox mistakenly submitted Roddy McDowall to the [Motion Picture Academy](#) for consideration as Best Actor, rather than as Best Supporting Actor, for the Academy Awards. The Academy deemed his role ineligible for a leading actor category and told the studio it was too late to submit him in the correct category because the nomination ballots had already been sent to the printers. 20th Century-Fox then published an open apology to McDowall in trade papers, stating, "We feel it is important that the industry realize that your electric performance as Octavian in *Cleopatra*, which was unanimously singled out by the critics as one of the best supporting performances by an actor this year, is not eligible for a nomination in that category... due to a regrettable error on the part of 20th Century Fox."

Award	Category	Nominee	Result
<a href="#">1963 National Board of Review Awards</a>	<a href="#">Best Actor</a>	<a href="#">Rex Harrison</a>	Won
<a href="#">1964 Eddie Awards</a>	Best Edited Feature Film	<a href="#">Dorothy Spencer</a>	Nominated
<a href="#">1964 Golden Globes</a>	Best Motion Picture – Drama	<i>Cleopatra</i>	Nominated
	Best Motion Picture Actor – Drama	<a href="#">Rex Harrison</a>	Nominated
	Best Supporting Actor – Motion Picture	<a href="#">Roddy McDowall</a>	Nominated
	Best Director – Motion Picture	<a href="#">Joseph L. Mankiewicz</a>	Nominated
<a href="#">1964 Laurel Awards</a>	Top Roadshow	<i>Cleopatra</i>	Won
	Top Male Dramatic Performance	<a href="#">Rex Harrison</a>	Nominated
<a href="#">1964 Academy Awards</a>	<a href="#">Best Picture</a>	<a href="#">Walter Wanger</a>	Nominated
	<a href="#">Best Actor in a Leading Role</a>	<a href="#">Rex Harrison</a>	Nominated
	<a href="#">Best Art Direction – Set</a>	Art Direction: <a href="#">John DeCuir</a> , <a href="#">Jack Martin Smith</a> , <a href="#">Hilyard M. Brown</a> , <a href="#">Herman A. Blumenthal</a> , <a href="#">Elven Webb</a> , <a href="#">Maurice</a>	Won

	<a href="#">Decoration, Color</a>	<a href="#">Pelling</a> , and <a href="#">Boris Juraga</a> ; Set Decoration: <a href="#">Walter M. Scott</a> , <a href="#">Paul S. Fox</a> , and <a href="#">Ray Moyer</a>	
	<a href="#">Best Cinematography, Color</a>	<a href="#">Leon Shamroy</a>	Won
	<a href="#">Best Costume Design, Color</a>	<a href="#">Irene Sharaff</a> , <a href="#">Vittorio Nino Novarese</a> , and <a href="#">Renié</a>	Won
	<a href="#">Best Film Editing</a>	<a href="#">Dorothy Spencer</a>	Nominated
	<a href="#">Best Music Score – Substantially Original</a>	<a href="#">Alex North</a>	Nominated
	<a href="#">Best Sound</a>	<a href="#">James Corcoran</a> (Twentieth Century Fox Sound Department) and <a href="#">Fred Hynes</a> (Todd-AO Sound Department)	Nominated
	<a href="#">Best Special Effects</a>	<a href="#">Emil Kosa Jr.</a>	Won
<a href="#">1964 Grammy Awards</a>	<a href="#">Background Score from a Motion Picture or Television</a>	<a href="#">Alex North</a>	Nominated
<a href="#">2014 Golden Trailer Awards</a>	Most Innovative Advertising for a Brand/Product	<i>Cleopatra</i> / <a href="#">Bulgari</a>	Nominated

## Cleopatra [1963]

The famous story of the queen of Egypt and her lovers: first of all, Caesar - with whom she also had a son, Caesarion - then Antony, who for love of her broke off his engagement with Octavia. After the war and Antony's defeat at Actium, the queen decides to end her life by using the poison of an asp.

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x803l5t> [4:11:08]

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0056937/>

# Cleopatra

Queen of Egypt

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cleopatra-queen-of-Egypt>

## Cleopatra



The Berlin Cleopatra, a [Roman sculpture](#) of Cleopatra wearing a royal [diadem](#), mid-1st century BC, now in the [Altes Museum](#), Germany<sup>[1][2][3][note 1]</sup>

## Pharaoh

### Queen of the Ptolemaic Kingdom

**Reign** 51–30 BC (21 years)<sup>[4]</sup>

**Coregency** show  
**See list**

**Predecessor** [Ptolemy XII Auletes](#)

**Successor** [Caesarion](#)

show

## Royal titulary

**Consorts**

- [Ptolemy XIII Theos Philopator](#)
- [Ptolemy XIV](#)
- [Mark Antony](#)

**Children**

- [Caesarion](#)
- [Alexander Helios](#)
- [Cleopatra Selene II](#)
- [Ptolemy Philadelphus](#)

**Father** Ptolemy XII Auletes

**Mother** Presumably [Cleopatra V Tryphaena](#)<sup>[note 2]</sup>

**Born** Early 69 BC or late 70 BC  
[Alexandria](#), [Ptolemaic Kingdom](#)

**Died** 10 August 30 BC (aged 39)<sup>[note 3]</sup>  
[Alexandria](#), [Roman Egypt](#)

Burial	<a href="#">Unlocated tomb</a> (probably in Egypt)
Dynasty	<a href="#">Ptolemaic dynasty</a>

**Cleopatra** (born 70/69 BCE—died August 30 BCE, Alexandria) was an Egyptian queen of the [Ptolemaic dynasty](#), famous in [history](#) and drama as the lover of [Julius Caesar](#) and later as the wife of [Mark Antony](#). She became queen on the death of her father, [Ptolemy XII](#), in 51 BCE and ruled successively with her two brothers [Ptolemy XIII](#) (51–47) and [Ptolemy XIV](#) (47–44) and her son [Ptolemy XV Caesar](#) (44–30). After the [Roman](#) armies of Octavian (the future emperor [Augustus](#)) defeated their combined forces, Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide, and [Egypt](#) fell under [Roman](#) domination. Cleopatra actively influenced Roman politics at a crucial period, and she came to represent, as did no other woman of [Classical antiquity](#), the [prototype](#) of the [romantic femme fatale](#).

### Life and reign



**Cleopatra : Relief of Cleopatra as a goddess, c. 69–30 BCE,  
Temple of Hathor, Dandarah, Egypt.**

Daughter of King [Ptolemy XII Auletes](#), Cleopatra was destined to become the last queen of the Macedonian [dynasty](#) that ruled Egypt between the death of [Alexander the Great](#) in 323 BCE and its annexation by Rome in 30 BCE. The line had been founded by Alexander's general Ptolemy, who became King [Ptolemy I Soter](#) of Egypt. Cleopatra was of Macedonian descent and had little, if any, Egyptian blood, although the Classical author [Plutarch](#) wrote that she alone of her house took the trouble to learn [Egyptian](#) and, for political reasons, styled herself as the new [Isis](#), a title that distinguished her from the earlier Ptolemaic queen Cleopatra III, who had also claimed to be the living embodiment of the goddess Isis. Coin portraits of Cleopatra show a [countenance](#) alive rather than beautiful, with a sensitive mouth, firm chin, liquid

eyes, broad forehead, and prominent nose. When Ptolemy XII died in 51 BCE, the throne passed to his young son, [Ptolemy XIII](#), and daughter, Cleopatra VII. It is likely, but not proven, that the two married soon after their father's death. The 18-year-old Cleopatra, older than her brother by about eight years, became the dominant ruler. Evidence shows that the first decree in which Ptolemy's name precedes Cleopatra's was in October of 50 BCE. Soon after, Cleopatra was forced to flee Egypt for [Syria](#), where she raised an army and in 48 BCE returned to face her brother at [Pelusium](#), on Egypt's eastern border. The murder of the Roman general [Pompey](#), who had sought refuge from Ptolemy XIII at Pelusium, and the arrival of [Julius Caesar](#) brought temporary peace.

Cleopatra realized that she needed Roman support, or, more specifically, Caesar's support, if she was to regain her throne. Each was determined to use the other. Caesar sought money for repayment of the debts [incurred](#) by Cleopatra's father, Auletes, as he struggled to retain his throne. Cleopatra was determined to keep her throne and, if possible, to restore the glories of the first Ptolemies and recover as much as possible of their dominions, which had included southern Syria and [Palestine](#). [Caesar and Cleopatra](#) became lovers and spent the winter besieged in [Alexandria](#). Roman reinforcements arrived the following spring, and Ptolemy XIII fled and drowned in the [Nile](#). Cleopatra, now married to her brother Ptolemy XIV, was restored to her throne. In June 47 BCE she gave birth to [Ptolemy Caesar](#) (known to the people of Alexandria as Caesarion, or "little Caesar"). Whether Caesar was the father of Caesarion, as his name implies, cannot now be known.

It took Caesar two years to extinguish the last flames of Pompeian opposition. As soon as he returned to Rome, in 46 BCE, he celebrated a four-day triumph—the ceremonial in honour of a general after his victory over a foreign enemy—in which [Arsinoe](#), Cleopatra's younger and hostile sister, was paraded. Cleopatra paid at least one state visit to Rome, accompanied by her husband-brother and son. She was [accommodated](#) in Caesar's private villa beyond the [Tiber River](#) and may have been present to witness the dedication of a golden statue of herself in the temple of Venus Genetrix, the ancestress of the Julian family to which Caesar belonged. Cleopatra was in Rome when Caesar was murdered in 44 BCE.

Soon after her return to Alexandria, in 44 BCE, Cleopatra's coruler, Ptolemy XIV, died. Cleopatra now ruled with her infant son, Ptolemy XV Caesar. When, at the [Battle of Philippi](#) in 42 BCE, Caesar's assassins were routed, [Mark Antony](#) became the [heir apparent](#) of Caesar's authority—or so it seemed, for Caesar's great-nephew and personal heir, [Octavian](#), was but a sickly boy. Antony, now controller of Rome's eastern territories, sent for Cleopatra so that she might explain her role in the aftermath of Caesar's assassination. She set out for Tarsus in [Asia Minor](#) loaded with gifts, having delayed her departure to heighten Antony's expectation. She entered the city by sailing up the Cydnus River in a barge while dressed in the robes of the new Isis. Antony, who equated himself with the god [Dionysus](#), was [captivated](#). Forgetting his wife, [Fulvia](#), who in Italy was doing her best to maintain her husband's interests against the growing menace of young Octavian, Antony returned to Alexandria, where he treated Cleopatra not as a "protected" [sovereign](#) but as an independent monarch.



In Alexandria, Cleopatra and Antony formed a society of “inimitable livers” whose members lived what some historians have interpreted as a life of [debauchery](#) and folly and others have interpreted as lives dedicated to the cult of the mystical god Dionysus.

In 40 BCE Cleopatra gave birth to twins, whom she named Alexander Helios and Cleopatra Selene. Antony had already left Alexandria to return to Italy, where he was forced to conclude a temporary settlement with Octavian. As part of this settlement, he married Octavian’s sister, Octavia (Fulvia having died). Three years later Antony was convinced that he and Octavian could never come to terms. His marriage to Octavia now an irrelevance, he returned to the east and reunited with Cleopatra. Antony needed Cleopatra’s financial support for his postponed Parthian campaign; in return, Cleopatra requested the return of much of Egypt’s eastern empire, including large portions of Syria and [Lebanon](#) and even the rich balsam groves of [Jericho](#).



**Mother and son : Ptolemy XV Caesar (right) and his mother, Cleopatra VII, relief on the temple of Hathor, Dandarah, Egypt.**

The Parthian campaign was a costly failure, as was the temporary conquest of [Armenia](#). Nevertheless, in 34 BCE Antony celebrated a triumphal return to Alexandria. This was followed by a celebration known as “the Donations of Alexandria.” Crowds flocked to the Gymnasium to see Cleopatra and Antony seated on golden thrones on a silver platform with their children sitting on slightly lower thrones beside them. Antony proclaimed Caesarion to be Caesar’s son—thus [relegating](#) Octavian, who had been adopted by Caesar as his son and heir, to legal illegitimacy. Cleopatra was hailed as queen of kings, Caesarion as king of kings. Alexander Helios was awarded Armenia and the territory beyond the Euphrates, his infant brother Ptolemy the lands to the west of it. The boys’ sister, Cleopatra Selene, was to be ruler of Cyrene. It was clear to Octavian, watching from Rome, that Antony



intended his [extended family](#) to rule the civilized world. A [propaganda war](#) erupted. Octavian seized Antony's will (or what he claimed to be Antony's will) from the temple of the [Vestal Virgins](#), to whom it had been entrusted, and revealed to the Roman people that not only had Antony bestowed Roman possessions on a foreign woman but intended to be buried beside her in Egypt. The rumour quickly spread that Antony also intended to transfer the capital from Rome to Alexandria.

Antony and Cleopatra spent the winter of 32–31 BCE in Greece. The Roman Senate deprived Antony of his [prospective](#) consulate for the following year, and it then declared war against Cleopatra. The naval [Battle of Actium](#), in which Octavian faced the combined forces of Antony and Cleopatra on September 2, 31 BCE, was a disaster for the Egyptians. Antony and Cleopatra fled to [Egypt](#), and Cleopatra retired to her [mausoleum](#) as Antony went off to fight his last battle. Receiving the false news that Cleopatra had died, Antony fell on his sword. In a last excess of devotion, he had himself carried to Cleopatra's retreat and there died, after bidding her to make her peace with Octavian.

Cleopatra buried Antony and then committed suicide. The means of her death is uncertain, though Classical writers came to believe that she had killed herself by means of an [asp](#), symbol of divine royalty. She was 39 and had been a queen for 22 years and Antony's partner for 11. They were buried together, as both of them had wished, and with them was buried the [Roman Republic](#).

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## 10 Best Movies About Cleopatra Ranked

<https://movieweb.com/best-movies-about-cleopatra/>

Cleopatra is undoubtedly one of the most famous, commanding, and impressive rulers of Ancient Egypt. She was the ruler of Egypt during the 1st Century BC and has since been a recognized part of pop culture. Cleopatra has inspired a Shakespeare play and appeared in dozens of Hollywood films. She has been the topic of several stories, whether tangible historical tales or artistic analysis of her associations with Caesar or Anthony.

While many have often pondered what Cleopatra looked like, almost every modern and semi-modern portrayal of Cleopatra tells us she was stunningly beautiful. Then in February 2007, a coin bearing a portrait of Cleopatra was unearthed, which appears to show that the Queen was, in fact, rather ordinary-looking. Nonetheless, Cleopatra has reached a kind of immortality that hardly any of her contemporaries ever did. That being said, we have compiled a selection of the best and most popular Cleopatra films.

### [10] Cleopatra's Tomb (1899)



MUBI

***Cleopatra's Tomb***, also known as *Robbing Cleopatra's tomb*, was a short silent film directed by Georges Méliès. The film is one of the earliest horror movies ever produced. It stars Méliès as a tomb robber and Jehanne d'Alcy as Cleopatra's ghost.

In the movie, a man digging inside an Egyptian tomb desecrates the Queen's mummy and produces a woman from a smoking brazier. D'Alcy was the first movie actor to portray Cleopatra (although as her ghost). *Cleopatra's Tomb* is a lost film. A print was reported to have been discovered by the Lobster Film Company in France, but it turned out it was a different movie about a grave robbery that had been mistaken for Cleopatra's tomb.

### [09] Cleopatra (1970)



Mushi Production

***Cleopatra*** is a Japanese adult animated fantasy film directed by Eiichi Yamamoto and Osamu Tezuka. It Starred Chinatsu Nakayama as Cleopatra, Hajime Hana as Julius Caesar, and Osami Nabe as Marcus Antonius. In the film, three humans discover that in the far future, an alien race called the Pasateli intends to conquer humanity with the mysterious Cleopatra Plan. Using a time machine, the three transfer their minds into the bodies of the historical Cleopatra's court members to discern and prevent the plan.

The movie was not received well by audiences in America and its native Japan. It received mixed reviews from critics; some praised its color and imagery, while others said the film was partly sophomoric. The film was also a commercial failure, flopping at the box office.

### [08] *Serpent of the Nile* (1953)



Sam

#### **Katzman Productions**

***Serpent of the Nile*** is a Technicolor historical adventure directed by William Castle and produced by Sam Katzman. The film starred Rhonda Fleming as Cleopatra and Raymond Burr as Marcus Antonius. It opens in 44 BC after the assassination of Julius Caesar and revolves around Cleopatra and her relationship with the Roman general Mark Anthony. Though the film had a low budget, the costumes are excellent; for example, Cleopatra is unmistakably wearing a bullet bra which was fashionable in the 1950s, and the Egyptian dancing girls are donning bikinis of the same era. However, the script needs more credibility as some incidents in the life and loves of Cleopatra are dusted off, making it a seldom-seen version of the story. Rhonda Fleming acting is impeccable, and she stands out as one of the most luscious incarnations of the Queen of the Nile to date.



## [07] Antony and Cleopatra (1972)



### Rank Organisation

***Antony and Cleopatra*** is a film adaptation of the play *Antony and Cleopatra* by William Shakespeare. It was shot in Spain and directed by Charlton Heston. Hildegarde Neil stars as Cleopatra while Charlton Heston plays Mark Anthony. The plot follows an affair between Cleopatra and Anthony and Neil does an excellent job portraying Cleopatra. However, the film was not well received and, as a result, had a limited release in the United States.

This doesn't mean it isn't a great production, it most definitely is, but it did not break any new ground in the way Laurence Olivier's Shakespeare films had done. We are not sure why some people disdain it, but the movie is beautifully filmed, acted, directed, written, and edited. With great costumes and lavish sets, it's a great film that is underrated.

## [06] Two Nights with Cleopatra (1954)



### Excelsa Film

***Two Nights with Cleopatra*** is an Italian comedy film directed by Mario Mattoli and written by Ruggero Maccari and Ettore Scola. The movie stars Sophia Loren, who takes two roles, as both the conniving Queen of the Nile with a "man-a-night" appetite and a beautiful lookalike slave girl who is made to pass for her and is wooed by a bodyguard who thinks she's the real Queen.

In the film, Cleopatra spends her nights with one of Mark Anthony's (Ettore Manni) bodyguards, who is poisoned the next day so that he cannot tell the previous night's events. The film depicts Cleopatra according to the myth that she used her beauty to seduce and bewitch the mighty Romans. The sets and the costumes are excellent, and Sophia Loren is exquisite, just as we imagine Cleopatra to look.

## [05] Asterix and Cleopatra (1968)



### Dargaud Films

***Asterix and Cleopatra*** is a Belgian–French animated comedy directed by René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo and is the second Asterix adventure to be made into a feature film. The movie is strikingly more well-produced than the earlier film; the animation has far more details, and the soundtrack is more polished. In the movie, Obelix (Hal Brav) and Asterix (Lee Payant) go to Egypt to help architect Numerobis build a palace for Cleopatra (Ginger Hall).

The movie is basically a musical, containing three different song sequences and a more varied score than its predecessor. The film is the most famous animation about Cleopatra and is full of fun characters, good visual humor, and clever wordplay. The movie was well-received, having a rating of 79% on Rotten Tomatoes.

#### [04] **Asterix & Obelix: Mission Cleopatra (2002)**



**Katharina/Renn Productions**

***Asterix & Obelix: Mission Cleopatra*** is a French/Italian fantasy comedy directed and written by Alain Chabat based from the comic book series Asterix by Albert Uderzo and René Goscinny. The film is the second installment in the Asterix Film series and a sequel to Asterix and Obelix vs Caesar (1999). Cleopatra is played by Monica Bellucci, Obelix by Gerard Depardieu, and Asterix by Christian Clavier. In the film, Queen Cleopatra strikes a deal with Julius Caesar (Alain Chabat) that if the Egyptians build a palace at Alexandria, which is grander than Caesar's palace in Rome, he must admit that Egypt was the greatest of nations.

Cleopatra hires the architect Numerobis to accomplish the task, who then enlists the aid of his most trusted allies, Obelix and Asterix. The film is the most recent renowned movie portrayal of Cleopatra. It was critically acclaimed for its performances and was a success at the box office in France.



### [03] Caesar and Cleopatra (1945)



#### Eagle-Lion Films

***Caesar and Cleopatra*** is a British film directed by Gabriel Pascal and is adapted from the play *Caesar and Cleopatra* (1901) by George Bernard Shaw. The film was distributed by Eagle-Lion and produced by Pascal Film Productions. It is about love and politics in Ancient Egypt and Rome and tells the story of Caesar's occupation of Alexandria after his defeat of Pompey. Vivien Leigh played Cleopatra, and Claude Rains portrayed Caesar.

The film was shot in Technicolor and had lavish sets, which made it the most expensive British film ever produced at the time. The director ordered sand from Egypt to achieve the right cinematic color. Upon its release, the film failed to earn back its enormous budget, but that doesn't mean it wasn't well performed; the two lead stars gave stand-out performances. They were Oscar nominees, and Vivien Leigh won an Oscar for Best Leading Actress in *Gone with the Wind* (1939).

### [02] Cleopatra (1934)



#### Paramount Pictures

***Cleopatra*** is an American epic film directed by Cecil B. DeMille and was based on Bartlett Cormack's adaptation of historical material. The screenplay was written by Vincent Lawrence and Waldemar Young and was distributed by Paramount Pictures. The film was shorter than other regular historical films, but the direction was fantastic, winning an Oscar for Cinematography. Claudette Colbert played Cleopatra, Henry Wilcoxon played Mark Antony, and Warren William portrayed Julius Caesar.

The film centers on the love life of Cleopatra, which starts with her relationship with Julius Caesar and later with Mark Anthony. The performance was incredible; Claudette Colbert was at the height of her career when she played the role of Cleopatra. The same year, she received an Academy Award for Leading Actress in *It Happened One Night* (1934). The film premiered on August 16, 1934, in New York, and the premiere audience gave the movie a standing ovation.

### [01] *Cleopatra* (1963)



20th Century Fox

***Cleopatra*** is an American epic historical drama film directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, a four-time Oscar winner, with a screenplay adapted by Sidney Buchman, Mankiewicz, and Ranald MacDougall from the 1957 book *The Life and Times of Cleopatra* by Carlo Maria Franzero. *Cleopatra* (1963) is the most renowned on-screen Cleopatra, and it received nine Oscar nominations winning four. Elizabeth Taylor is the leading actress playing Cleopatra, Rex Harrison plays Julius Caesar, and Richard Burton plays Mark Anthony.

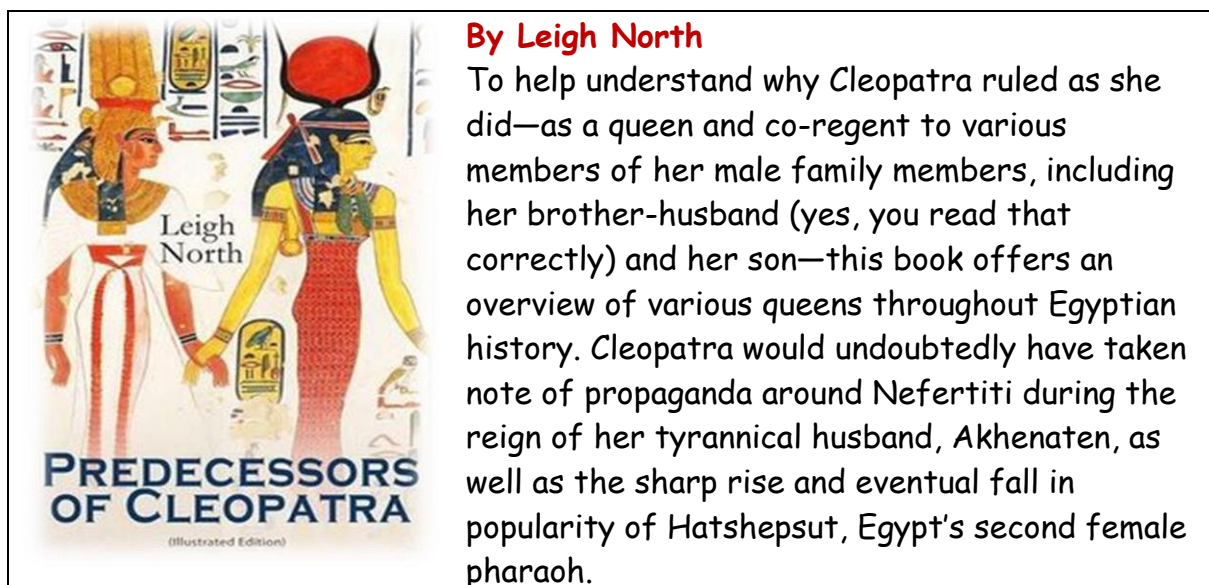
The film revolves around Cleopatra, the young Queen of Egypt, as she struggles to resist the imperial ambitions of Rome. Taylor played the role very well, and her on-screen romance with Mark Anthony captivated audiences. Viewers can see the sparks flying between them, especially in the scene that requires her to gaze into his eyes.

**Taylor changed her costume 65 times which was legendary [A Guinness World Record]**

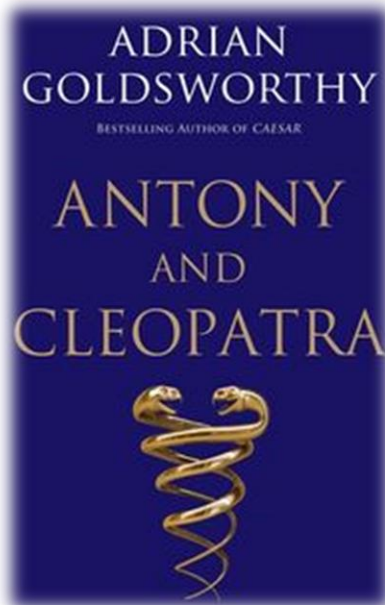
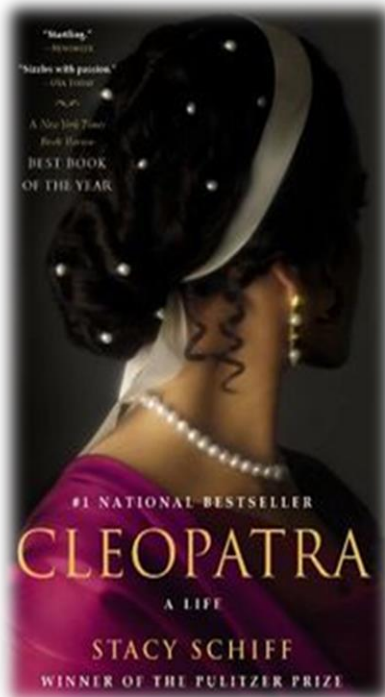
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Books on/about

# CLEOPATRA







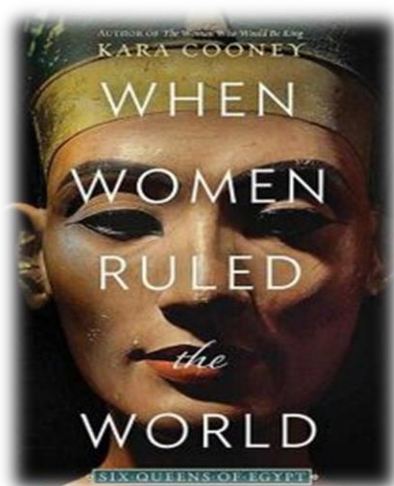
### By Stacy Schiff

This book traces the life of not only Cleopatra, but one of her famed lovers—Marc Antony. Adrian Goldsworthy recounts the Ptolemaic reliance on Roman relationships, and this tradition that Cleopatra continued in her own unique way. By examining Marc Antony's side of the story, we gain a fuller understanding of the Roman military and political theaters. Goldsworthy doesn't romanticize Antony and Cleopatra's relationship in the fashion that Shakespeare and filmmaker Joseph L. Mankiewicz did, however. This dual biography presents the pair not as the seductress and her prey, or as soulmates, but as people and leaders, first and foremost.

### By Adrian Goldsworthy

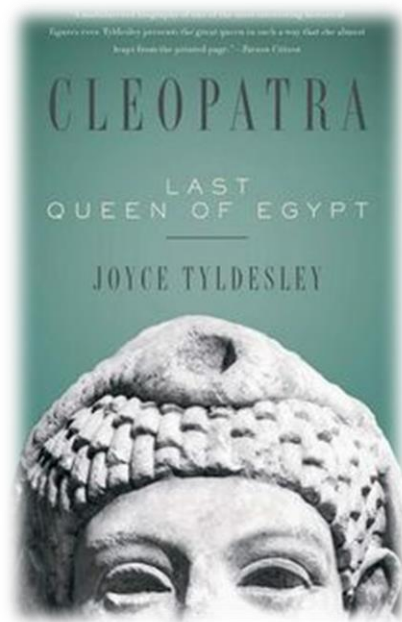
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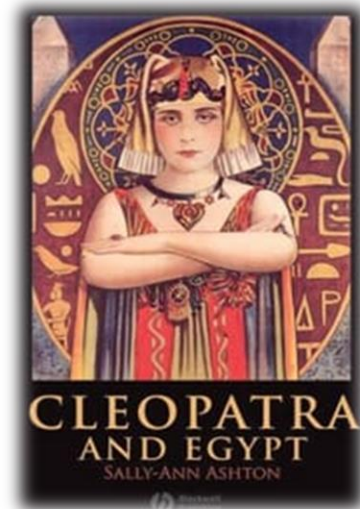
### By Kara Cooney

Drawing astute parallels between the political climate in the 21st century and the rarity of Egyptian queens acting as regents and rulers rather than figureheads, Kara Cooney analyzes women in power. She dissects how female rulers rose to power in Ancient Egypt, and how they were perceived. What measures did Cleopatra have to take to convince others of her capabilities? And to what extent do female politicians have to alter their appearances and tactics to succeed in politics today?



### By Joyce Tyldesley

This account works to not only explain Cleopatra's life, but untangle the myths and inaccuracies that we've come to associate with her. It also examines the Ptolemies. After three centuries of backstabbing, lying, conniving, and murder, the family seemed to have little love or allegiance for one another. This heavily influenced Cleopatra's life—including the civil war that she found herself embroiled in with her brother-husband, Ptolemy XIV. This war would lead to Cleopatra's eventual alliance with Julius Caesar—and the rest is history.

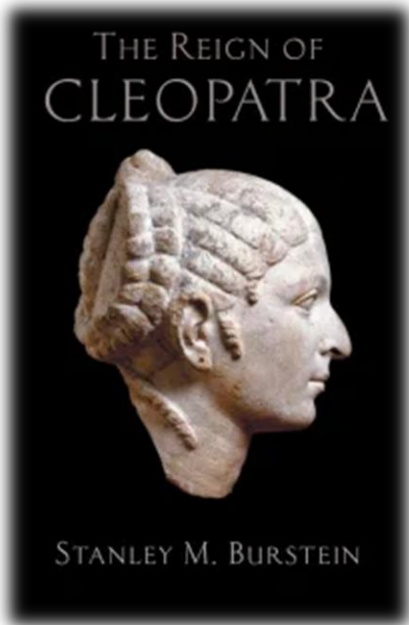


### By Sally-Ann Ashton

Ashton's *Cleopatra and Egypt* considers Cleopatra from an Egyptian perspective.

Her detailed examination of the Egyptian sources for Cleopatra's life and reign distinguishes her work from most other books, which tend to place Cleopatra into a framework of Greek and Roman history. A large number of images center the Egyptian monuments and works of art associated with Cleopatra.

The text provides ample background on the Egyptian political and religious traditions onto which the Ptolemies imposed their rule.

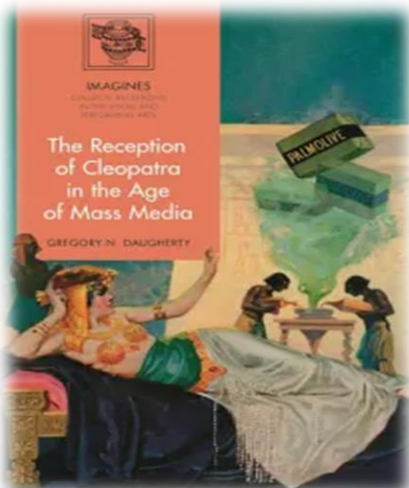


**By Stanley M. Burstein**

Burstein's *The Reign of Cleopatra* is an accessible introduction to Cleopatra's life and the context in which she lived.

Biography and historical background combine with an exploration of the politics of Ptolemaic Egypt, scholarship and the arts at Alexandria, and the multicultural Hellenistic world. Primary sources, both artifacts, and documents, bring the story to life.

A glossary defines relevant terminology and an annotated bibliography provides guidance for further study.



**By Gregory N. Daugherty**

There are many books about the reception of Cleopatra in high art like Shakespearean drama and Renaissance painting, but Daugherty's *The Reception of Cleopatra in the Age of Mass Media* is a delightful exploration of Cleopatra in popular creations such as video games, graphic novels, and television.

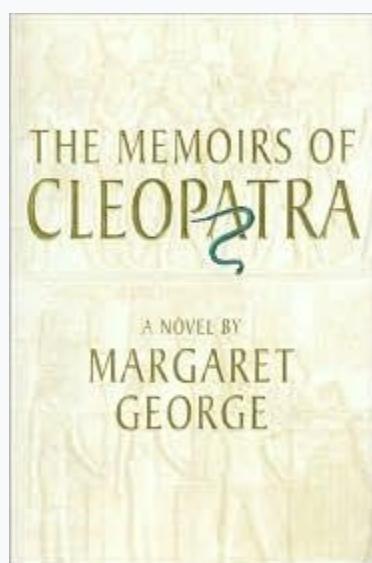
The incredible variety of material and engaging writing style makes this book a perfect introduction to reception studies and a must-read for pop culture aficionados.

## ***The Memoirs of Cleopatra***

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Memoirs\\_of\\_Cleopatra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Memoirs_of_Cleopatra)

*The Memoirs of Cleopatra* is a 1997 historical fiction novel written by American author Margaret George, detailing the purported life of Cleopatra VII, Queen of Egypt. Published on April 15, 1997, it landed on The New York Times Best Seller list for Fiction Hardcover. In 1999, the American network ABC adapted it for television, and released it as a four-part mini-series entitled Cleopatra starring the French-Chilean actress Leonor Varela alongside Timothy Dalton and Billy Zane.

## *The Memoirs of Cleopatra*



**First edition**

<b>Author</b>	<a href="#">Margaret George</a>
<b>Audio read by</b>	Donata Peters
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Genre</b>	Historical fiction
<b>Publisher</b>	<a href="#">St. Martin's Press</a>
<b>Publication date</b>	April 15, 1997
<b>Publication place</b>	United States
<b>Media type</b>	Print
<b>Pages</b>	964
<b><a href="#">ISBN</a></b>	<a href="#">0312154305</a>

## **Plot summary**

The story follows [Cleopatra VII](#), from her early life under the rule of her father [Ptolemy XII Auletes](#), to her eventual suicide. When Cleopatra is a young girl, Ptolemy is overthrown by his two elder daughters, [Cleopatra VI](#) and [Berenice](#), and requires the help of Rome to save his throne, increasing his country's debt. Cleopatra VII is named co-ruler with her father, and when he dies, her young brother [Ptolemy XIII](#) is named in his stead. In accordance with tradition, she marries him. Later, Ptolemy overthrows his sister under the advice of his advisers. Cleopatra seeks out the nearby [Julius Caesar](#). She hides in a rug and has herself secretly presented to him, beginning a tryst. She falls in love with him.

With his help, at the age of seventeen, she becomes queen of Egypt, but feels betrayed when her brother is ordered back as her co-regent. Cleopatra and Caesar tour the country, and she becomes pregnant. They marry and he returns home, while she gives birth of a son named [Ptolemy Caesar](#). Caesar acknowledges the boy, but is assassinated soon after. Cleopatra meets [Marcus Antonius](#), and the two begin an



affair that will last years. Together, they fight to withstand the aggression of Caesar's successor, [Octavian](#).

## Development and release

Author [Margaret George](#) read about Cleopatra as a young girl, and had always had an interest in the classics. George related to the historical figure because they were both dark-haired, in an era when most images of beauty seemed to be blonde. She spent two and a half years writing *The Memoirs of Cleopatra*, traveling to Egypt four times to research it. Referring to the many incorrect presentations of the legendary queen, George considers her novel to be "the most historically accurate version within the limits of the medium". She viewed Cleopatra fundamentally as a "political leader" who suffered from centuries of Roman propaganda and Shakespearean plays, each of whom sought to depict her as "flighty". George said that "she was obviously very appealing but not this bimbo that the Romans would like you to think she was".

The finished novel was 964 pages; George describes this as "big, but it's not padded". By 1997, George was a successful author who had published popular historical novels about [Henry VIII of England](#) and [Mary, Queen of Scots](#). Assuming her latest novel would also be popular, [St. Martin's Press](#) ordered 200,000 copies. *The Memoirs of Cleopatra* was published by St. Martin's Press in March 1997. George launched a national book tour in April, and it landed on [The New York Times Best Seller list](#) for fiction hardcover in May and June. By May 1999, it had sold 180,000 copies.

## Reception

Megan Harlan of [Entertainment Weekly](#) graded the novel with an A− and called it an "absorbing, meticulous cast-of-thousands epic". Harlan added that while "long swaths of Roman civil warfare might prove skimmable for some... the rest of *The Memoirs of Cleopatra* is completely absorbing, as if ancient frescoes had sprung alive". [Publishers Weekly](#) also gave a positive review, lauding her "palpably real" settings and ability to depict the era's many battles with "skill and passion". They added that "in nearly a thousand pages, [George] creates countless memorable moments... Readers looking to be transported to another place and time will find their magic carpet here". [Kirkus Reviews](#) compared *The Memoirs of Cleopatra* to her novel on Mary, Queen of Scots, writing that "unlike George's Mary, based on that sovereign's letters and diaries, Cleopatra's voice is lost in the [sands of time](#), and its echo here is curiously bland".<sup>[1]</sup> The reviewer added: "As for the power boys – Caesar and Antony – both lack the steely tang of [Colleen McCullough](#)'s portraits".

## Miniseries adaptation

The American network [ABC](#) [optioned](#) the novel even before its completion. A four-hour television miniseries adaptation of *The Memoirs of Cleopatra* was broadcast in 1999, entitled *Cleopatra*. One of the most expensive television productions ever, it was adapted by Anton Diether and [Stephen Harrigan](#), whom George became friends with. She served as a minor consultant for the miniseries. Filmed in North Africa and London, it starred the "purposely unknown" French-Chilean actress [Leonor Varela](#) as the titular character, along with costars [Timothy Dalton](#) and [Billy Zane](#) as her respective lovers Caesar and Antony. The adaptation, which received mixed to



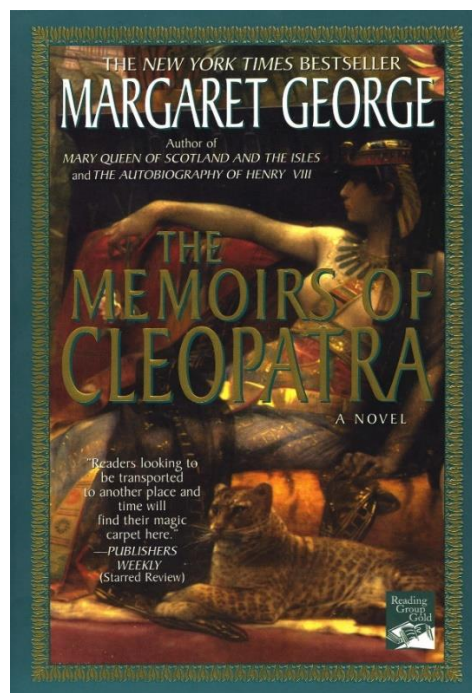
negative reviews, deviated from the novel in several significant ways, including its condensing of Cleopatra's relationship with Antony. George has stated that "they 'telescoped' it in the interest of time. They kept the psychology, and they kept the motivation. But they rearranged some things". She also added that she thinks:



**French-Chilean actress Leonor Varela starred  
as Cleopatra in the television adaptation of George's novel.**

"They did well consider that they had to condense things so much. My book has everything in it – her childhood, her children, her battle strategies. It's encyclopaedic. But I think they have the spirit of it. They've preserved the essential psychology of it".

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### **About the Book**

The world-renowned author of The Autobiography of Henry VII and Mary Queen of Scotland and the Isles turns from Renaissance Britain to ancient Egypt and the story of Cleopatra, Queen of the Nile. Told in the first person — from the young queen's

earliest memories of her father's tenuous rule to her own reign over one of the most glittering kingdoms in the world—this is a mesmerizing saga of ambition and power.

But it is also a tale of passion that begins when the twenty-one-year-old Cleopatra, desperate to return from exile, seeks out the one man who can help her, the Roman general Julius Caesar — and does not end until, having survived the assassination of Caesar and the defeat of the second man she loves, Marc Antony, she plots her own death rather than allow herself to be paraded in triumph through the streets of Rome.

Margaret George has long been acclaimed for the richness and authenticity of her characters, setting, and action. Mary Stewart called her first novel, *The Autobiography of Henry VII*, "a remarkable achievement...magnificently researched and admirably written," while *The Detroit Free Press* proclaimed, "it doth brim with lust, violence, cruelty, and lively conversation...Margaret George has found a new and fresh way to tell the story." Her second novel, *Mary Queen of Scotland and the Isles*, was hailed as "an evocative portrait" (*The New York Times Book Review*) and "a triumph of historical fiction" (*Houston Chronicle*). In her glorious new novel *The Memoirs of Cleopatra*, Margaret George has created a story and a heroine so magnificent that they will live forever.

### **Review of the Book**

<https://www.bethfishreads.com/2009/03/review-memoirs-of-cleopatra-by-margaret.html>

*The Memoirs of Cleopatra* takes us from the time the Egyptian queen was about twelve years old until her death at age thirty-nine. The story is told from Cleopatra's viewpoint, and we watch the young girl as she matures from a naive teenager to a politically savvy and manipulative world leader. It is a captivating story of the fall of the Roman republic and the complex politics of the Mediterranean in the late years before Christ.

Cleopatra comes across as a woman who puts her country before everything, sometimes even before her children. Because of Egypt's wealth and climate, it was a coveted ally and potential prize for Rome. When the young queen meets Julius Caesar, she is still learning about the wider world. Her alliance with Caesar and her trip to Rome taught her much about how to rule her people with a caring yet strong hand. She also learned of the dangers of power when Caesar was stabbed to death in the senate building.

We travel with Cleopatra as she visits her domain, learning through her words about the religions and cultures of Alexandria, greater Egypt, and her other possessions. She had a gift for languages and an ability to win over almost everyone with whom she had a face-to-face audience. She was blessed with capable, loyal, and trustworthy ministers, doctors, and personal servants. And she

was determined to pass her throne on to her children. By the time Marc Antony entered her life, Cleopatra had no illusions. She may have loved Antony, but she was also well aware of his faults and how she could use him to better herself and her people. The reader is left to question what Antony's fate would have been had he not been pressured to proclaim Cleopatra to be his wife or if Octavian had not befriended Agrippa. The queen's ambitions may have been the ultimate downfall of not only herself but also her Roman husband.

The book ends with an author's note about the historical basis of the story. George is clear about which plot lines and characters are factual and which are not. I did some quick research and am satisfied that George doesn't stray too far from what is known about the queen. I did find two glaring anachronisms. Cleopatra mentions paper several times. I don't believe paper reached Egypt until long after the queen was dead. Furthermore, she mentions having ships of the line, which I believe is a seventeenth-century term. There may have been other slips, but I either wasn't aware of them or I've forgotten them.

The story was engrossing throughout. I've long had an interest in the age of Julius Caesar and his nephew Octavian (later Augustus). It was interesting to see the events through Cleopatra's eyes. Her relationship with Octavian was hostile for a number of reasons, including the fact that she was mother to Caesar's son and insisted that Antony divorce Octavian's sister. Rome needed Egypt's treasury and its grain, and Octavian would stop at nothing to secure both.

I listened to the unabridged audiobook, which was brilliantly narrated by Donada Peters. The paperback is about 975 pages, and the audio comes in at 49 hours! The novel translated wonderfully to audio, and I have no doubt that it would be just as good or better in print.

### Review

#### The Memoirs of Cleopatra [1:03:45]

Historical fiction author Margaret George transports the reader to Ptolemaic Egypt over 2,000 years ago to witness the incredible life story Cleopatra, the last active pharaoh. In this episode, follow Joan Turmelle as she recounts her time reading this lengthy adventure of a woman whose reputation in popular culture precedes her. She describes the history of the Hellenistic World and unravels the various myths and misconceptions surrounding the Egyptian Queen, revealing a complex individual who faced the Roman Republic with grand ambitions and uncertainty.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3hXO-dtQJ8>

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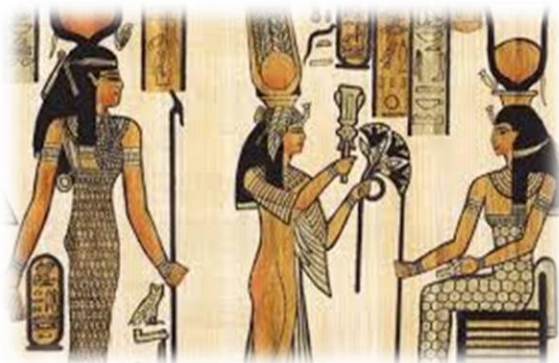
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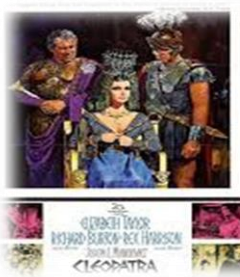














Cleopatra's Needle, London.







Coffin and Cleopatra's mummy [British Museum]













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